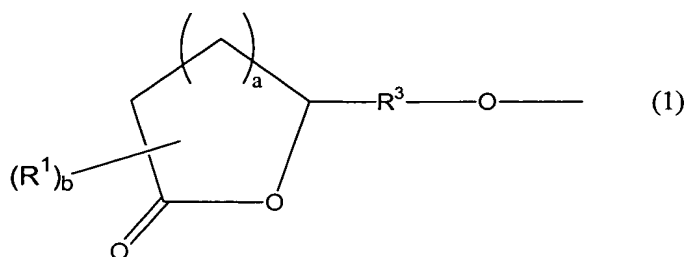


REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claims 2-4, 7, 9, 18, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 19 contain allowable subject matter (pg. 3, para. 4 of the Official Action).

Turning to the rejections of the remaining claims, Claims 1 and 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,312,867 to Kinsho et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kinsho"). This rejection, which appears on page 2, numbered paragraph 2 of the Official Action, is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

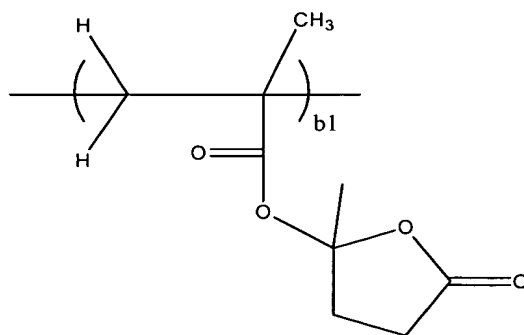
Claim 1 recites a resin comprising a lactone cyclic structure of the following formula (1),



wherein a is an integer from 1-3, b is an integer from 0-9, R^3 represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group *of which the main chain has 1-5 carbon atoms*, and R^1 represents a monovalent organic group.

As set forth in the Official Action, Kinsho discloses a polymer having a repeating unit

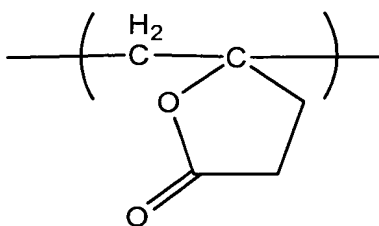
represented by the following:



The structure disclosed above in Kinsho does not meet the definition for formula (1). In particular, this structure does not include a substituent meeting the definition of R^3 (*i.e.*, a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group *of which the main chain has 1-5 carbon atoms*). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 11222460 (hereinafter referred to as “JP ‘460”). This rejection, which appears on page 3, numbered paragraph 3 of the Official Action, is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

In rejecting these claims, the Official Action is relying upon the polymers disclosed in example 16, section 55 and example 31, section 60 (pg. 3, para. 3 of the Official Action). These two examples, however, disclose polymer repeating units which have the following structure:

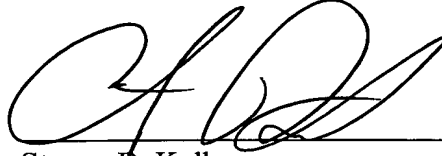


The above structure, however, does not meet the definition for formula (1) in Claim 1. In particular, the structure in examples 16 and 31 of JP ‘460 does not include a substituent meeting the definition of R^3 (*i.e.*, a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group *of which the main chain has 1-5 carbon atoms*). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-17 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 11-17 over Kinsho and the rejection of Claim 17 over JP '460 is also respectfully requested for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER RUDNICK LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Kelber', written over a horizontal line.

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